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Sean and Davis,

I would like to point out an issue we realized with the EPA 4/20/2018 hard sediment sampling protocol that we realized today. Suggest a modification and get EPA's concurrence. At one or more of the locations the contractor did not reach the 20 to 30 cm penetration depth not due to hard sediment, but due to not having enough weight loaded on the grab. At a couple of these locations the lack of penetration was a result of them not having all of the weights on the sampler and probably not a hard sediment issue. They are continually adding and removing weights to the grab to optimize it for conditions (full penetration but don't overpenetrate). For this situation we recommend that the EPA 4/20/2018 hard sediment sampling protocol be modified so that if a failure to penetrate is due to insufficient weights on the grab, that weights can be added and a second grab attempted without triggering the bowl 1 and bowl 2 sampling sequence.

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